

From: Derik Stenerson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 5:23pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 28, 2002
Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to voice my position of support for concluding the litigation against Microsoft by approving the proposed settlement with the Justice Department. This case has proved not to be the best use of the government's resources, as the break-up attempt has only led to protracted dispute with no resolution. Consequently, it seems that accepting this current plan would be the best course of action for both sides at this point.

The terms will be very favorable to Microsoft's opponents without causing severe disruption to its business model. Computer makers will have more flexibility to choose software programs for the Windows operating system, and even to manage specific features, like the supposedly controversial bundling options. Software developers will have unprecedented access to Windows internal interfaces and server protocols, as well as the ability to license its intellectual property. A non-partisan group of software experts will then monitor the process to ensure ongoing compliance.

Based on these actions and measures, it seems that Microsoft is reaching out to the software community in a significant way to allow more competition in the marketplace. It should be in the best interest of all parties to take this opportunity and run with it, rather than delay further the possibility of a mutual solution. I look forward to your finalization of this agreement at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Derik Stenerson
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